

ALABAMA

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Alabama's Per Capita Income Ranking in 1989

Data recently released by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates that Alabama's per capita personal income grew by 6.5 percent between 1988 and 1989, the same as the national average. At \$13,679, Alabama's per capita income was equal to 77 percent of the national average and this ranked it 41st among all the states.

Alabama's ranking declined by one position from its 1988 level of 40th, although it improved over its 1986 and 1987 ranking of 42nd. Alabama's loss of one position in the state rankings came as a result of faster per capita income growth in Kentucky (7.4 percent) and Idaho (9.3 percent) and slower growth in South Carolina (5.3 percent) when compared to Alabama's 6.5 percent growth rate. As a result of these differential growth rates, Kentucky and Idaho moved ahead of Alabama, while South Carolina fell behind yielding in a one position change in Alabama's ranking.

Although per capita income growth in Alabama was equal to that of the United States, the suggestion of comparable economic performance would be somewhat misleading. Total personal income in Alabama grew by only 6.9 percent between 1988 and 1989 compared to a national average of 7.6 percent and a Southeast average of 7.9 percent. A slower population growth rate for Alabama (0.4 percent compared to 1.0 percent for the United States) allowed the per capita income measure to register a faster growth rate.

When compared to the Southeastern states, Alabama ranked 7th among the 12 states in 1989. This position reflects no movement from 1988 or 1987, but a drop from 6th position in 1986. The loss of one position over this four year period can again be accounted for by stronger growth in Kentucky and slower growth in South Carolina.

While rankings of per capita income can be instructive, they must be used in conjunction with absolute measures of income to gain a clear understanding of economic performance. For example, per capita income in Kentucky grew faster than it did in Alabama

between 1988 and 1989 and allowed Kentucky to rank 39th compared with Alabama's 41st ranking. However, the total dollar difference between Alabama's and Kentucky's per capita income was only 98 dollars in 1989. Kentucky's per capita income was less than one percent higher than Alabama's per capita income. It is doubtful that residents of Kentucky derive any significant economic benefits from this higher per capita income.

The relatively constant position of Alabama in the income rankings suggests that closing the gap between Alabama and the national average will not be easy nor will it come quickly. Fundamental changes in the structure of the economy are the keys to improved economic well-being of the state's residents. Improvements in rankings will then follow.

William D. Gunther

Per Capita Personal Income and Rankings, Southeastern (SE) States, 1989

States	Income 1989	SE Rank		U.S. Rank 1989
		1989	1986	
Virginia	\$18,970	1	1	10
Florida	17,694	2	2	17
Georgia	16,188	3	3	26
North Carolina	15,221	4	4	34
Tennessee	14,765	5	5	35
Kentucky	13,777	6	8	39
Alabama	13,679	7	6	41
South Carolina	13,616	8	7	42
Louisiana	13,041	9	9	46
Arkansas	12,984	10	10	48
West Virginia	12,529	11	11	49
Mississippi	11,835	12	12	50
United States	\$17,567	--	--	--

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

	TAXABLE RETAIL SALES (in thousands of current dollars)				LABOR FORCE		
	Feb 1990 ^P	Jan 1990 ^f	Jan 1989	Percent Change Jan 89-Jan 90	Civilian Labor Force Feb 1990	Unemployment Rate Feb 90 Jan 90	
Alabama, State of	1,448,132	1,566,907	1,716,052	-8.7	1,870,900	7.2	6.7
MSAs							
Anniston	34,462	40,600	45,140	-10.1	50,950	7.0	6.6
Birmingham	351,635	384,962	448,166	-14.1	432,790	5.4	5.2
Decatur	40,770	44,552	50,116	-11.1	50,940	9.7	7.7
Dothan	48,830	54,700	58,986	-7.3	58,400	5.6	5.6
Florence	52,505	58,434	62,299	-6.2	60,450	7.7	7.0
Gadsden	31,431	34,001	39,234	-13.3	41,890	10.5	9.2
Huntsville	97,943	106,375	117,229	-9.3	131,940	5.2	5.2
Mobile	173,903	185,458	194,544	-4.7	204,590	7.7	7.2
Montgomery	125,036	129,722	152,034	-14.7	136,060	6.1	6.1
Tuscaloosa	51,380	54,915	60,947	-9.9	72,040	9.5	4.6
Counties							
Autauga	10,070	10,429	13,180	-20.9	15,930	6.7	6.7
Baldwin	31,971	34,908	35,282	-1.1	39,380	6.7	6.8
Barbour	5,601	6,240	6,729	-7.3	11,920	7.1	6.9
Bibb	2,487	3,078	3,436	-10.4	7,030	8.8	10.8
Blount	6,678	8,282	8,460	-2.1	16,710	6.8	5.7
Bullock	1,234	1,201	1,783	-32.6	4,040	10.9	10.5
Butler	3,615	3,951	4,751	-16.8	8,130	13.8	12.8
Calhoun	34,462	40,600	45,140	-10.1	50,950	7.0	6.6
Chambers	7,621	9,120	9,832	-7.2	16,330	6.6	5.2
Cherokee	4,004	4,954	4,965	-0.2	8,390	8.2	8.5
Chilton	7,718	8,458	8,977	-5.8	15,130	8.3	9.4
Choctaw	2,254	2,118	2,741	-22.7	6,730	14.7	14.2
Clarke	6,475	7,394	7,729	-4.3	11,120	8.5	7.8
Clay	2,328	2,363	2,834	-16.6	6,370	5.2	5.5
Cleburne	2,232	2,319	2,620	-11.5	5,350	7.0	6.4
Coffee	9,956	12,475	14,151	-11.8	17,940	5.9	6.4
Colbert	22,155	24,960	27,596	-9.6	23,550	8.4	8.1
Conecuh	2,088	2,196	3,117	-29.5	5,590	8.8	7.8
Coosa	884	964	990	-2.6	4,970	6.0	6.3
Covington	11,847	11,951	12,498	-4.4	16,650	6.7	6.7
Crenshaw	3,580	3,445	3,502	-1.6	6,500	7.4	6.8
Cullman	17,742	18,950	22,818	-17.0	32,290	6.9	6.4
Dale	7,949	10,854	11,267	-3.7	18,200	7.7	7.7
Dallas	10,589	12,303	15,241	-19.3	19,420	11.0	11.9
De Kalb	13,837	14,029	15,050	-6.8	29,670	6.8	6.6
Elmore	10,556	11,196	11,444	-2.2	21,750	5.8	5.6
Escambia	8,517	8,517	9,318	-8.6	15,250	9.0	9.0
Etowah	31,431	34,001	39,234	-13.3	41,890	10.5	9.2
Fayette	3,763	4,219	4,470	-5.6	7,930	13.9	9.9
Franklin	6,241	7,339	7,876	-6.8	14,160	11.1	12.8
Geneva	3,651	3,873	4,640	-16.5	10,930	5.3	5.8
Greene	1,709	1,841	1,806	1.9	3,590	13.3	11.5
Hale	2,179	2,397	2,565	-6.5	6,120	11.4	8.4
Henry	2,794	2,467	3,290	-25.0	7,090	5.5	5.6
Houston	40,881	43,846	47,719	-8.1	40,190	4.6	4.7
Jackson	10,431	11,330	12,903	-12.2	20,600	9.6	9.3
Jefferson	287,214	307,431	367,655	-16.4	323,900	5.0	4.8
Lamar	2,625	2,527	2,887	-12.5	8,180	7.9	8.7
Lauderdale	30,450	33,474	34,703	-3.5	36,890	7.2	6.3
Lawrence	3,486	4,615	5,270	-12.4	12,880	12.7	10.7
Lee	25,262	33,032	33,243	-0.6	41,720	6.9	3.9
Limestone	13,447	14,057	15,893	-11.6	30,410	6.2	6.2
Lowndes	1,594	1,458	1,651	-11.7	5,680	13.7	12.8
Macon	4,265	5,194	4,853	7.0	9,960	7.8	6.9
Madison	97,943	106,375	117,229	-9.3	131,940	5.1	5.2
Marengo	5,469	6,468	6,830	-5.3	9,540	7.6	7.1
Marion	6,836	7,889	9,107	-13.4	14,870	14.1	18.7
Marshall	26,269	29,987	32,274	-7.1	38,300	8.2	7.3
Mobile	141,932	150,550	159,262	-5.5	165,220	7.4	7.3
Monroe	6,606	6,537	7,455	-12.3	10,370	10.5	10.2
Montgomery	104,410	108,097	127,410	-15.2	98,380	6.0	6.2
Morgan	37,284	39,937	44,846	-10.9	48,070	8.9	6.9
Perry	1,671	1,684	1,977	-14.8	5,430	12.5	17.1
Pickens	3,391	3,424	3,771	-9.2	7,410	13.5	9.2
Pike	7,871	9,640	11,386	-15.3	12,690	6.0	5.5
Randolph	4,081	4,741	5,554	-14.6	8,820	6.7	7.0
Russell	13,463	12,891	11,152	15.6	21,960	6.2	6.1
St. Clair	8,931	8,489	10,816	-21.5	21,660	6.4	5.8
Shelby	26,581	30,468	33,201	-8.2	42,230	4.0	4.5
Sumter	1,924	3,029	2,936	3.2	5,870	8.0	8.8
Talladega	20,780	23,149	26,752	-13.5	31,080	9.5	9.4
Tallapoosa	7,976	9,362	9,871	-5.2	18,260	6.0	5.4
Tuscaloosa	51,380	54,915	60,947	-9.9	72,040	9.5	4.6
Walker	22,231	30,292	28,034	8.1	28,290	9.7	10.3
Washington	1,872	1,732	1,902	-8.9	6,480	10.9	10.0
Wilcox	1,775	1,667	2,147	-22.4	3,950	12.6	12.4
Winston	6,117	6,532	6,736	-3.0	10,580	13.4	15.5

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS						
	Feb 1990	Jan 1990	Feb 1989	Percent Change Feb 89-Feb 90	Annual	
					1988	1989

Prices

Consumer Price Index, U.S.						
All items (1982-84 = 100)	128.0	127.4	121.6	5.3	118.3	124.0
Producer Price Index, U.S.						
All commodities (1982 = 100)	114.4	114.9	110.8	3.2	106.9	112.2
Consumer Purchasing Power of the Dollar	0.78	0.78	0.82	-5.0	0.85	0.81

Alabama Employment

Total Employment (1,000)	1,736.7	1,749.0	1,743.9	-0.4	1,738.0	1,773.0
Nonagricultural	1,586.5	1,590.8	1,570.8	1.0	1,558.7	1,588.3
Manufacturing	375.8	381.2	382.3	-1.7	380.6	383.8
Durable goods	185.3	186.2	185.8	-0.3	184.0	187.5
Nondurable goods	190.5	195.0	196.5	-3.1	196.6	196.3
Nonmanufacturing	1,210.7	1,209.6	1,188.5	1.9	1,178.1	1,204.5
Mining and quarrying	11.7	11.8	11.5	1.7	11.2	11.3
Contract construction	76.4	76.2	71.6	6.7	78.0	75.9
Trans., comm., and utilities	79.7	79.5	80.1	-0.5	79.5	80.1
Wholesale trade	84.4	84.2	83.0	1.7	80.9	84.2
Retail trade	260.8	263.7	258.0	1.1	258.8	264.9
Finance, insurance, real estate	71.0	71.3	70.5	0.7	70.3	70.9
Services and miscellaneous	306.0	305.0	298.3	2.6	289.8	302.4
Federal government	65.1	65.1	64.2	1.4	66.0	64.9
State and local government	255.6	252.8	251.3	1.7	243.5	249.8

Other Alabama Indicators

Bituminous coal						
production (1,000 net tons)	2,295	2,493	2,394	-4.1	26,055	26,574
Natural gas production (mil cu ft)	14,137	15,300	14,672	-3.6	176,008	181,285
Crude oil and condensate						
production (1,000 barrels)	1,467	1,612	1,556	-5.7	20,597	19,622
Cotton consumption (1,000 lbs)	46,720	50,324	39,300	18.9	482,002	546,490
Pulp, paper, and paperboard						
production (1,000 net tons)	569	638	551	3.3	6,977	7,027
Shipments by water,						
Port of Mobile (1,000 tons)	3,151	3,885	2,788	13.0	32,684	36,575
New passenger car registrations	9,081	10,951	8,572	5.9	133,614	116,117

	Feb 1990	Jan 1990	Jan 1989	Percent Change Jan 89-Jan 90	Annual	
					1988	1989

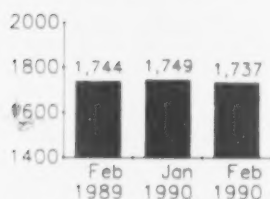
Alabama Taxable Retail Sales (\$1,000,000)

Food	280	303	342	-11.5	4,128	4,205
General merchandise	145	187	198	-5.9	3,047	3,097
Apparel	53	49	53	-7.1	933	930
Furniture, furnishings, etc.	63	67	75	-11.8	1,035	1,024
Automotive	279	296	305	-3.0	4,233	4,222
Gasoline service stations	20	21	25	-13.7	294	308
Lumber and building materials	106	109	115	-5.1	1,713	1,652
Hardware and farm implements	14	14	17	-15.3	234	235
Eating and drinking places	132	132	150	-11.9	1,915	2,025
Drug stores	29	31	38	-20.1	416	410
Miscellaneous retail	103	118	130	-9.2	1,641	1,679
Nonretail & unclassified	224	240	267	-10.1	3,414	3,593
Total, all sales at retail	1,448	1,567	1,716	-8.7	23,006	23,380

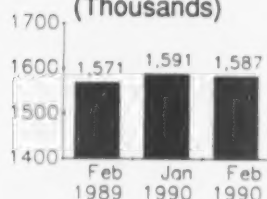
Notes and Sources: Civilian labor force, unemployment, and total employment are adjusted by place of residence, and total nonagricultural employment and its components are by place of work. All monthly data are adjusted to a March benchmark of the previous year. Shipments by water include both inbound and outbound shipments moving through private facilities as well as through the Alabama State Docks; excludes tonnage for military installations. Retail sales data represent sales at retail which are subject to sales tax as reported to the Alabama Department of Revenue under the definition of the Alabama Sales Tax Law. Total sales figures include taxable sales at retail by wholesalers and other nonretail firms as well as retail concerns. Sales at retail thus defined should not be confused with all sales (including nonretail sales) by retail concerns as reported in the Census of Retail Trade. Monthly sales figures are preliminary and subject to revision on a continuing basis. Sales figures for the two latest months are normally low because of late reporters. MSA and county level sales are estimated for multi-county firms using the 1985 disaggregation survey conducted by the Alabama Department of Revenue. Data estimates, thus, may not reflect current disaggregations for these firms. Data on new passenger car registrations may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of R.L. Polk and Company.

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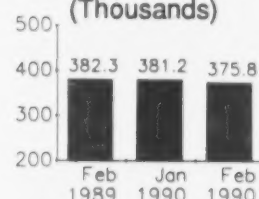
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
(Thousands)



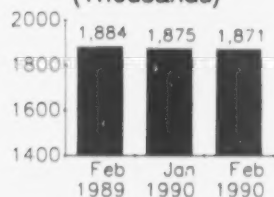
NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT
(Thousands)



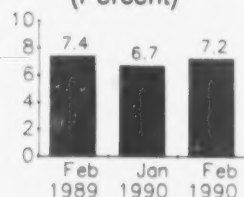
MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
(Thousands)



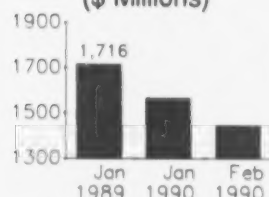
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
(Thousands)



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(Percent)



TOTAL RETAIL SALES
(\$ Millions)



TAKE NOTE

Extremely low January and February 1990 retail sales figures shown in this issue reflect the Department of Revenue's implementation of a new data entry and computer system. Hopefully, initial problems with the system can be resolved and the revised numbers reported next month.

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